

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Review Item:**

The Kentucky Center for School Safety

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 158.442; KRS 158.443; KRS 158.444; KRS 158.445; KRS 158.446

### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** The Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) is in its seventh year of operation. Established in 1998 as a component of House Bill 330, the Center's mission is:

“to serve as the central point for data analysis; research; dissemination of information about successful school safety programs, research results, and new programs; and in collaboration with the Department of Education and others to provide technical assistance for safe schools.”

Since the inception of the Kentucky Center for School Safety, Eastern Kentucky University has served as the central contract agency with the cooperation and support of three partner organizations. Central operations include the fiscal oversight of the KCSS operating budget, distribution of Safe Schools funds to local school districts, data analysis and reporting, program evaluation, support to the KCSS Board of Directors, coordination of the Safe School Assessments, facilitation of the School Safety Advisory Council and communication with the Office of the Governor, Kentucky Board of Education, General Assembly and public. A twelve-member Board of Directors whose members are appointed by the Governor guides the KCSS in its work.

The Center's mission and scope of work demands a statewide collaboration of resources. For this reason, the KCSS is a consortium of three state universities (Eastern Kentucky University, University of Kentucky, and Murray State University) and the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA). This partnership provides a dynamic blend of experience in project management, applied research, and technical assistance to our state's education, human service and justice organizations.

Accomplishments of the Kentucky Center for School Safety since 1999 include:

- Appropriation of over \$64 million in safe schools funds to support safe schools efforts
- Production and distribution of the annual Safe Schools Data Report

- Attendance by more than 19,000 Kentucky educators, parents and community members at KCSS sponsored events
- 100% of KY school districts have accessed services through KCSS
- Distribution of more than 500,000 free resources to Kentucky Schools
- Annual website access in excess of 156,000 viewers
- Provision of books and other literature regarding bullying, proactive approaches to behavior management, defusing anger and managing threats to postsecondary education departments
- Provision of technical support for school districts and alternative education programs
- Conduction of Safe School Assessments in over 240 schools in our state

Jon Akers, Executive Director of the KCSS, will be present at the December meeting to speak on the specifics of the Center's work and to respond to questions.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

Students cannot reach proficiency unless schools provide safe, secure, and orderly environments that are conducive to learning.

**Contact Person:**

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

December 2006

